

ST. DIE SECTOR

On the afternoon of September 26 the second platoon left for the front line trenches at La Halte, about ten kilometres northeast, on the top of the Vosges Mountains, arriving at sundown. Here four to six men with three or four N. C. O's were sent about half a mile to different posts on the front line and did guard duty in connection with the French. The platoon remained here for two days, then returned six kilometres and rejoined the rest of the Company at Vierge du Haut Port. After two days' stay at this place the Company returned to La Halte early in the afternoon of September 30, 1918, and relieved the Sixth Company, Forty-seventh Regiment of French Infantry. From now on the various posts were in charge of an officer or a non-commissioned officer as follows: Company P. C. at La Halte; T. A. 7, Sergeant Bell; T. A. 10, Observation Point; T. A. 14, Sergeant Hurwitz; T. A. 24, Sergeant Matthews; T. A. 30, Sergeant Day; T. A. 40, Lieutenant Spears; Sappanier, Lieutenant Elliot; Reduit, Sergeant Nevins. Guard and patrol duty was the work day and night. The Allied front line trench being on the top of one mountain, the German on the other, with a deep valley between, densely covered with timber. This was not a very active sector, defensive rather than offensive, but the men got their first taste of the realities of actual warfare. During the stay on this sector the patrol work of the Company was highly complimented by the Colonel. The quietness of the foggy mountain was disturbed now and then by the shots at a German airplane or the breaking loose of an American automatic accompanied by a grenade or two, till about 11 a. m., October 4, 1918,